

VANCOUVER
2010
WINTER OLYMPICS

January 2005

Coordination is Key

Washington State's efforts will help VANOC make the Olympic Games successful

A number of state agencies and regional groups are collaborating to prepare the state to keep travelers moving to the 2010 Olympic Games and to tourist destinations in the region.

Governor Locke's Task Force on the 2010 Winter Olympics.

Washington State Department of Transportation is responsible for maintaining, operating, building, and improving state highways to move travelers and goods safely and effectively.

Washington State Patrol is responsible to ensure the free flow of traffic and public safety.

Washington Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development assists in the building and sustaining of strong social, environmental and economic foundations for the state, including both international trade and tourism.

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Washington State
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International Mobility and Trade Corridor (IMTC) is a bi-national coalition of public and private stakeholders coordinating to improve transportation and inspection systems that connect Washington and British Columbia. Participants voluntarily come from transportation agencies, inspection agencies, local jurisdictions, regional government, industry associations, and non-governmental organizations from both sides of the border.

Whatcom Council of Governments is the regional planning agency serving Whatcom County, Washington. The Whatcom Council of Governments is the lead agency for the IMTC and coordinates transportation planning among all levels of government, including numerous discussions and forums on preparing for the Winter Olympics.

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2010 Olympics Overview of Washington State Planning Efforts

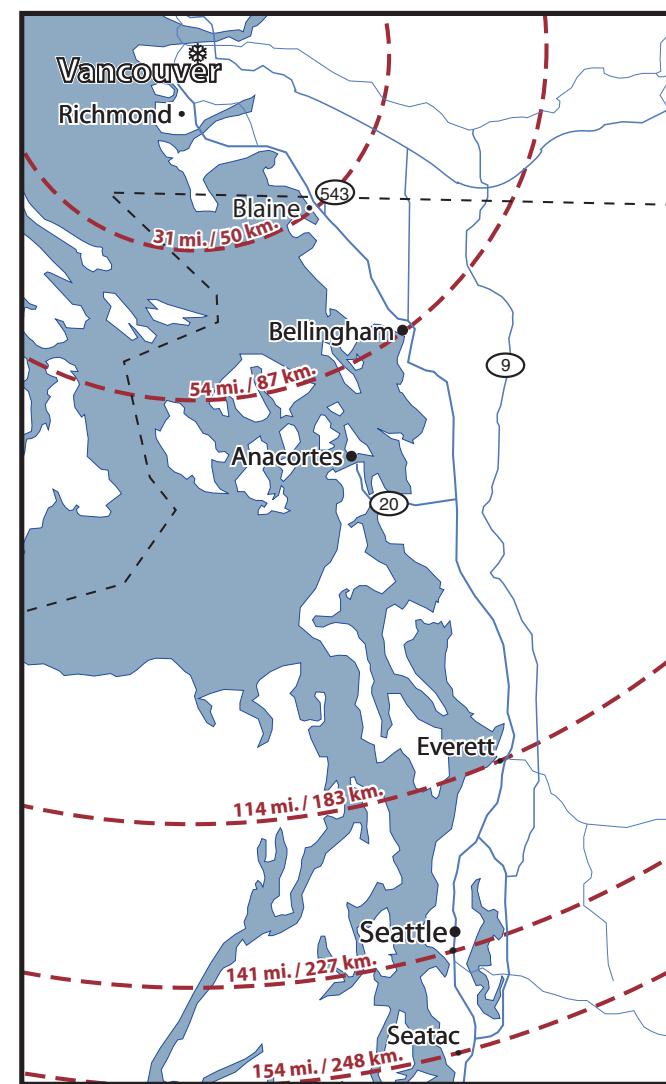
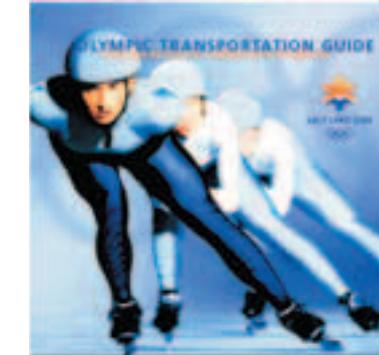
Goal: Travelers to the 2010 Winter Olympic Games arrive safely and satisfied with their Washington experience. Washington is committed to doing our part to help our neighbors meet the challenge of hosting the best Winter Games ever.

In January 2010, British Columbia will be the host of the XXI Winter Olympic Games centered in Vancouver, with venues throughout greater Vancouver and in Whistler. Washington State is uniquely positioned by its proximity to Vancouver for key transportation access to the games. We anticipate that visitors to the Olympics will likely use SeaTac International Airport as an alternate airport. This means more travel on Washington State highways, passenger rail lines, airlines and possibly ferries, leading up to and during the Games.

We expect that the transportation system communities, and visitor services within 150 miles of Vancouver may be affected by tourism and people heading to the games. We recognize both the benefits and responsibility of this event and we want to put our best face forward. Washington has a number of facilities, services and planned improvements in progress to help meet our goals.

Washington's Work is Underway

- ✓ 2003 Transportation Revenue Package
- ✓ 2004 Legislative Action to Accelerate Projects
- ✓ Pre-existing Projects Underway
- ✓ Emphasis on Operational Needs
- ✓ Visitor Information Sites and Materials
- ✓ Regional and State Agency Coordination





Capital Projects Underway

Numerous projects are underway and will be completed in time for the Winter Games. These are funded from pre-existing funds, from the 2003 Transportation Revenue Package, and some were accelerated during the 2004 Legislative session.

SR 543, Interstate 5 to Canadian Border

This project will construct additional lanes, provide dedicated truck lanes, and provide space for through traffic to move around waiting vehicles at the U.S./Canada border. The project will also build a new interchange at D Street, eliminating a high accident location. The project is scheduled to be complete in 2007.



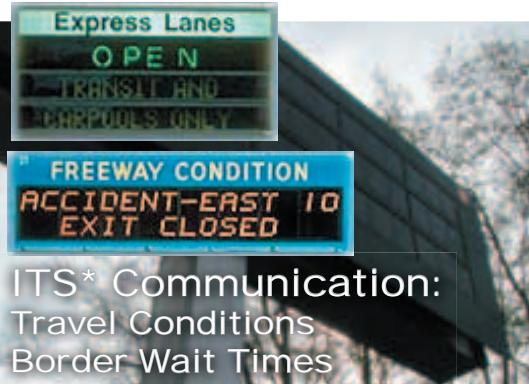
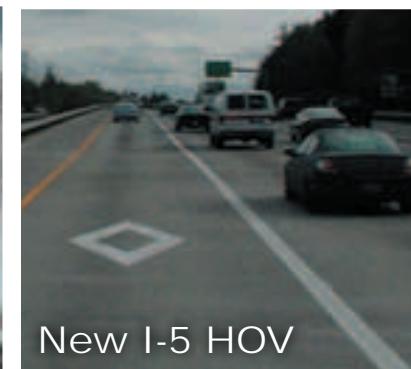
SR 539, Tenmile Road to International Border, Widening

This project will widen the existing two-lane road to four lanes in each direction with a two-way left turn lane at various locations throughout the project. Construction has been accelerated to be complete by 2009.



I-5 Everett Vicinity, HOV Lanes Extended

This project will construct high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes in each direction on I-5 between SR 526 and Marine View Drive near Everett. It will also build auxiliary lanes between the 41st Street interchange and US 2, and move the Broadway off-ramp to the right side of the freeway. Construction has been accelerated to be completed in 2008.

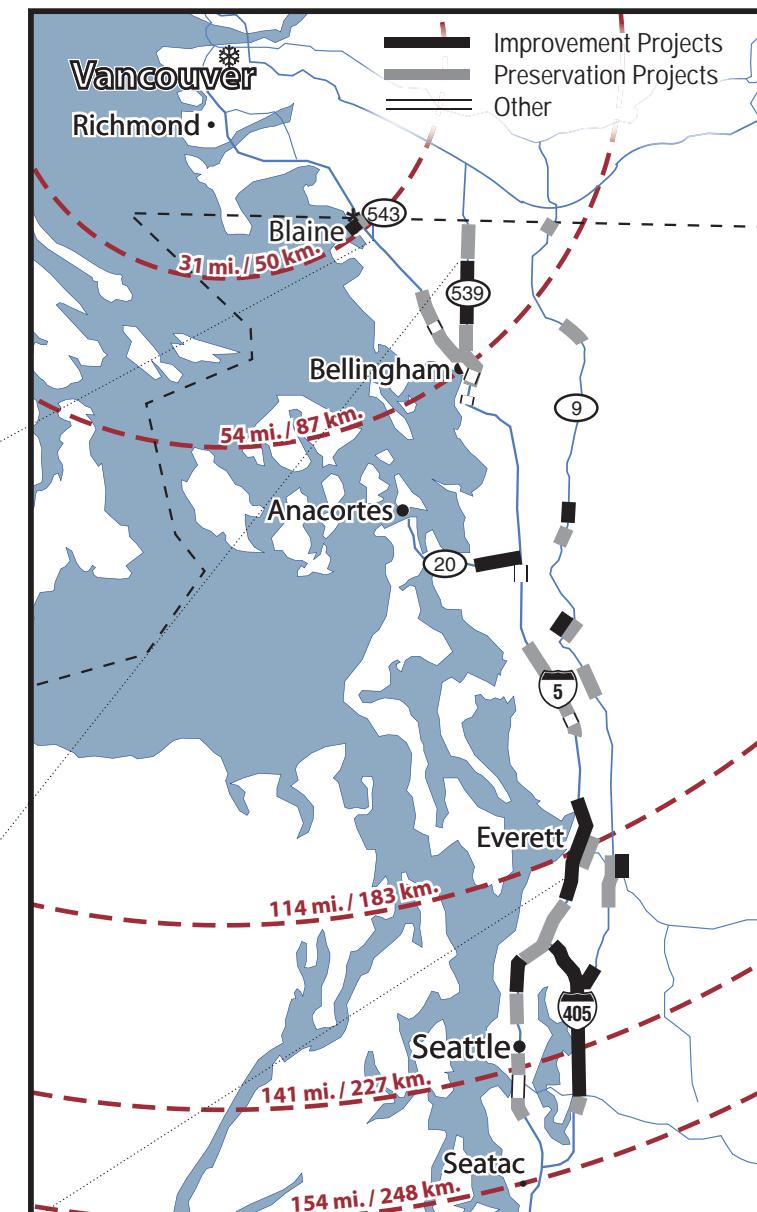


ITS* Communication:
Travel Conditions
Border Wait Times

*Intelligent Transportation Systems

Capital Projects Under Construction

2004-2009



* I-5, Peace Arch Port of Entry

U.S. Customs is planning and will fund a border crossing facility improvement at the Peace Arch in Blaine. These upgrades will necessitate improvements to the freeway and particularly the exit #276 interchange. The necessary highway improvements are currently being scoped. This project is not yet funded.

Operational Emphasis Areas

Washington anticipates the need for enhanced maintenance activities and traffic operations to accommodate highway capacity for travelers and residents during the games.

The following activities are being considered:

- Enhance snow and ice removal using steel plow bits or aggressive use of solid deicers in Skagit and Whatcom counties, ski areas on Mt. Baker, and find sites for stockpiling snow and ice removal materials.
- Upgrade maintenance facilities near the U.S./Canada border and SR 542 to Mt. Baker using temporary crew facilities and equipment storage.
- Supplement the Bellingham and Mt. Vernon maintenance workforce and equipment with temporary or borrowed employees and equipment from other WSDOT regions to accommodate enhanced maintenance activities.
- Upgrade safety rest areas between Everett and Bellingham during the Winter Games, including leasing additional capacity/truck parking for the Bow Hill and Custer rest areas.
- Enhance traffic operations including up to 12 new incident response teams, up to four additional staff at the Bellingham Traffic Management Center, and clear striping and directional signing of highways. WSDOT welcomes participation in a multi-agency traffic management center for the purposes of Olympics related traffic management.
- Enhance signal operations and maintenance of existing intelligent transportation systems including an additional staff to ensure equipment maintenance.
- Improve U.S./Canada border crossing fiber communication systems, data stations, cameras, variable message signs, and highway advisory radio along the primary border approach highways of I-5, SR 539, and SR 9.
- Locate visitor information sites (or use existing locations such as rest areas) and develop and distribute traveler literature/brochures.

Organizational and Financial Planning

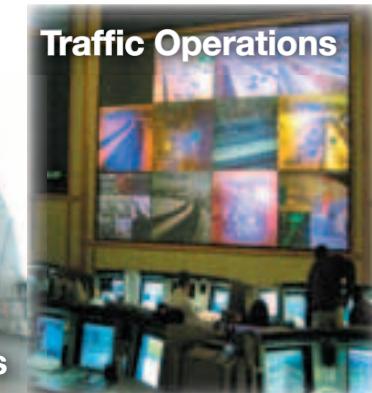
It is essential that the Washington State coalition establish a close working relationship with the Vancouver Organizing Committee (VANOC). In addition to transportation system improvements, officials and agencies should consider the following:

- WSDOT and the International Mobility and Trade Corridor (IMTC) are working with the Federal Highway Administration to identify sources for funding, grants and earmarks for projects and operations.
- Federal funding for rail corridor improvements and Amtrak Cascades service.
- Security and pre-clearance strategies at border crossings, including an amendment to the "Open Skies" treaty.
- Potential use of funds for construction projects in British Columbia.
- Consistent travel and tourism information coordinated between jurisdictions.
- Develop and test a comprehensive security plan.
- Internet-based trip planner web site to assist travelers in accessing connections to public transportation.



The state and regional coalitions are further developing their work plans for the 2010 Winter Olympics readiness.

Organizational and financial strategies will be developed and agreed upon.



Maintenance Facilities